

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JOHN F. BURNS ARTICLE NEW YORK TIMES
MONDAY, SEPT. 20, HEADED "VORSTER, 'HE'S HONEST, BLUNT,'
SAID TO WIN KISSINGER'S RESPECT."

2. HENRY KISSINGER AND JOHN VORSTER, MEN OF SHARPLY
DIFFERING BACKGROUNDS AND BELIEFS WHO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO-
GETHER BY A COMMON INTEREST IN DEFUSING THE EXPLOSIVE POLI-
TICAL SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, APPEAR TO HAVE FOUND A
GRUDGING RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER IN THEIR 30 HOURS OF TALKS
OVER THREE MONTHS.

3. THERE HAS BEEN NONE OF THE PUBLIC JOCULARITY AND BON-
HOMIE THAT CHARACTERIZED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MR.
KISSINGER AND OTHER CONTRASTING POLITICAL FIGURES HE HAS
MET, SUCH AS PRIME MINISTER CHOU EN-LAI OF CHINA OR
PRESIDENT ANWAR EL-SADAT OF EGYPT. BUT BEHIND CLOSED
DOORS, MR. KISSINGER IS REPORTED TO HAVE ESTABLISHED A
SURPRISING RAPPORT WITH MR. VORSTER.

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4. "HE'S BLUNT, HE'S HONEST, AND HE'S FORTHRIGHT, AND HENRY RESPECTS HIM FOR THAT," A KISSINGER AIDE SAID TODAY

AFTER THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S LATEST ROUND OF TALKS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER. "I THINK HENRY'S FOUND THAT HE'S ALSO A LOT MORE REALISTIC THAN ANYBODY GIVES HIM CREDIT FOR."

5. WHETHER MR. KISSINGER WAS ABLE TO ESTABLISH A SIMILAR RELATIONSHIP WITH PRIME MINISTER IAN D. SMITH OF RHODESIA WAS LESS CERTAIN. PARTICIPANTS AT THE EIGHT HOURS OF TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO MEN DESCRIBED THE SESSIONS AS BUSINESSLIKE, AND MR. KISSINGER CAREFULLY AVOIDED HAVING HIS PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN WITH THE RHODESIAN.

6. HE ALSO AVOIDED REFERRING TO MR. SMITH AS PRIME MINISTER, A TACIT ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS REGARDED THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT AS ILLEGAL SINCE IT BROKE AWAY FROM BRITAIN IN 1965. IN MR. KISSINGER'S STATEMENT ON THE MEETING, THE RHODESIAN WAS PLAIN "MR. SMITH" AND THE CABINET MINISTERS HE BROUGHT WITH HIM "CLOSE COLLABORATORS."

7. FOR HIS PART, MR. VORSTER HAS MADE NO SECRET OF THE PLEASURE HE TAKES AT DEALING WITH MR. KISSINGER. A FEW DAYS AGO HE TOLD A POLITICAL RALLY THAT THE TALKS HAD ENDED THE PERIOD IN WHICH THE WEST "IGNORED US TOTALLY," AND USHERED IN AN ERA IN WHICH MR. KISSINGER FELT IT NECESSARY TO REPORT PERSONALLY TO THE LEADERS OF WESTERN EUROPE ON THE DISCUSSIONS.

8. MR. SMITH, A NORMALLY DOUR MAN, WAS SMILING WHEN HE EMERGED FROM HIS TALKS WITH MR. KISSINGER IN THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, A MANSION HIGH ON A HILL ABOVE THIS CAPITAL CITY. AIDES TO THE RHODESIAN SAID HE HAD WAITED A LONG TIME TO PUT HIS CASE BEFORE THE WEST'S SECOND MOST POWERFUL MAN AND HAD SAVORED THE EXPERIENCE.

9. THE THREE PRINCIPALS IN THE DAY'S TALKS WERE AN ODD UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSEMBLY: MR. KISSINGER, THE GERMAN EMIGRE WHO FLED THE NAZIS, MR. VORSTER, THE WARTIME INTERNEE WHO WAS ACCUSED OF ATTEMPTING TO SABOTAGE SOUTH AFRICA'S WAR EFFORT, AND MR. SMITH, THE SPITFIRE PILOT WHO UNDERWENT PLASTIC SURGERY TO HIS FACE AFTER BAILING OUT OVER GERMAN-OCCUPIED ITALY.

10. BUT PERHAPS THE MOST REMARKABLE ASPECT OF THE EN-

COUNTER WAS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MR. KISSINGER AND MR. VORSTER. IN PUBLIC IT APPEARED DISTANT AND AWKWARD, BUT IN PRIVATE THE TWO MEN WERE SAID TO HAVE RELAXED IN EACH OTHER'S COMPANY, SHARING HUMEROUS ANECDOTES ABOUT

THEIR POLITICAL EXPERIENCES WITHOUT, HOWEVER, SLIPPING INTO FAMILIARITY.

11. WHEN MR. KISSINGER ARRIVED HERE ON FRIDAY, THE FIRST UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE TO SET FOOT IN SOUTH AFRICA, HE APPEARED TO BE TRYING TO LIGHTEN AN OCCASION MADE HEAVY BY DIFFERENCES OVER APARTHEID. MR. VORSTER, WHOSE PUBLIC DEMEANOR IS STIFF AND UNSMILING, SEEMED UNEASY AS THE TWO MEN WALKED THROUGH THE GARDEN AT MR. VORSTER'S RESIDENCE, LIBERTAS. ROBINSON

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